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AN
INTRODUCTORY DISCOURSE,
TO A
COURSE OF LECTURES
ON
CLINICAL MEDICINE
AND
PATHOLOGICAL ANATOMY;

DELIVERED AT THE OPENING OF THE NEW

CLINICAL AMPHITHEATRE OF THE LOUISVILLE MARINE-HOSPITAL,

NOVEMBER 5TH, 1840.

BY DANIEL DRAKE, M. D.

PROFESSOR OF THESE BRANCHES IN THE MEDICAL INSTITUTE OF LOUISVILLE.

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TO THE
MEMBERS OF THE MEDICAL CLASS:

Gentlemen,

In yielding to your respectful request to be furnished with a copy of my Introductory Lecture, for publication, I am not governed by my own conviction of its containing any thing so new or striking as to merit that distinction; but by two other considerations: First—It may do something towards promoting the study of Pathological Anatomy, in the West and South; and, perhaps aid you, after graduation, in the prosecution of Clinical Observations. Second—Its publication will contribute to make known the fact, that the Professors have erected an amphitheatre, in which the examination of patients can be conducted in a manner far more advantageous to students of medicine than in the wards of the Hospital.

Most respectfully,

Your friend and preceptor,

DANIEL DRAKE, M.D.

*Medical Institute of Louisville, }
December 10th, 1840. }*

INTRODUCTORY LECTURE.

YOUNG GENTLEMEN,

The object of the Introductory Lecture which I am about to deliver, is to explain, especially to the younger members of the Class, the nature and importance of the branches of medical science confided to me by the Managers of the Institute, and to make known to you the means and facilities which have been recently provided for their prosecution.

By CLINICAL MEDICINE is understood the study of diseases at the bedside of the sick, which may be carried on either in private practice or in Hospitals. Most of you have been more or less engaged in the former mode with your preceptors, and you are now about to engage in the latter, which is often called Hospital medicine. I trust that none of you will think his previous opportunities in private practice have been such as to render an attention to Hospital medicine superfluous. I am aware that many of you have been reading with gentlemen of science and skill, for I have the pleasure of knowing them; but *all* cannot have had that advantage, and even those who have, may still find an attention to hospital practice eminently beneficial.

In private practice many restraints are imposed on physicians, and still more on students. Enquiries which may be freely made in hospitals are often inadmissible in private families; the presence of various members of the family and of visitors frequently limits our physical examinations; records of the symptoms and prescriptions from day to day are seldom kept; and the physician is not, in general, at liberty to expound to his pupils at the bedside of the patient the reasons for his prescriptions: finally, the student very seldom has the opportunity of making regular visits, and, for the most part, is taken to see cases of an advanced and dangerous character, when the symptoms are so numerous and complicated that he is incapable of analyzing them, and looks at them with a mixed feeling of curiosity, wonder and despair. Thus, under the most favorable aspect in which we can contemplate clinical opportunities during private pupilage, they are exceedingly imperfect, and I ought to add, sometimes injurious. This last remark involves no censure of private preceptors, as I will make apparent to you in a moment. When the student accompanies his teacher to the bedside of a patient, he *sees* the symptoms and *hears* the prescription it is true, but very often knows little more of the case. This being repeated, an association of ideas is, at length, established in his mind between certain phenomena and certain medicines; so that when the for-

now present themselves they suggest the latter; but this is not science, any more than it is science, for a mariner to predict from a certain aspect of the sky that a storm is impending, while he is totally ignorant of the principles of meteorology. The symptoms of disease are but the signs of disordered function, and the mind should first contemplate them in their connexion with the organs and their actions. They must be *interpreted*, and then the reasons for the prescription become intelligible. But, as I have said, these explanations cannot in general be made at the bedside in private practice, and, therefore, many students grow up to be, what in name they despise, mere empirical practitioners.

They enter on the duties of the profession as symptomatists and therapeutists; when, in reality, they should be symptomatists, therapeutists and *pathologists*. Every physician who is not a pathologist is a routinist. On the other hand, although every pathologist is, as far as pathology goes, a man of science, he is not necessarily a good therapeutist, that is, practical physician. His knowledge is not sufficiently extensive. It comprehends pathology only, when it should embrace two other branches. Now it is the object and duty of a professor of Clinical medicine, to teach these branches in connexion. It is *my* function, young gentlemen, to teach them to *you*, and if I should not, I shall neither discharge the duty assigned me, nor fulfil the expectations under which you have done me the honor to become my pupils. To prophesy that I shall be successful, would be arrogant: to predict that I shall fail, would be absurd. But it involves neither arrogance nor absurdity, to say, that nothing can be accomplished without a conjoint and earnest effort. A sense of duty to you, ought to stimulate *me* to such an effort—and a sense of duty to your future patients, should animate you to similar exertions. Time will tell to our friends and society, how far we have respected the obligations of conscience, benevolence and professional honor.

Every co-operative effort, young gentlemen, requires a plan of operations, and a common understanding of the means by which it shall be carried on. Ours will be the following: we shall bring from the wards of the Hospital a selection of such cases as seem likely to be most instructive, and make each case a special study. Some of them will be simple and easily disposed of; but others will be obscure or complicated; confused in their diagnosis, uncertain in their pathology, difficult in their indications of cure—and it will be necessary, of course, to dwell patiently upon them. They must be kept before us for protracted observation, and made the subjects of deep and deliberate thinking. Our attention must be concentrated, sustained and active; the lapse of time must be disregarded; and every student must feel as though the development of the case depended on himself, as in battle every soldier should regard himself as the Achilles of the conflict.

This attention, young gentlemen, cannot be given by proxy, any more

than you can nourish your bodies, by employing an agent to eat your food. Professional acquirement, like professional honor, is strictly personal; and each must earn his own share. On this point let no student deceive himself. To borrow a further illustration from the science of war, when a regiment has acquired renown, every member of it participates, although every one may not have been valorous, for it is estimated in the aggregate; the stout in heart and the timid in heart, are grouped together, and the latter appropriate to themselves a portion of the fame of the former. But this can never happen in medical classes. Your names, it is true, are interwoven on our matriculation book, you sit side by side in our amphitheatres, you nod to each other from the opposite benches, under a dull lecture, and pierce the depths of each others minds with glances from animated eyes, when new ideas are awakened in you by the eloquent voice of truth; but the day *will* come when the wheat must be separated from the tares—when the magnetic wand of interrogation, extended along your compact lines, will draw out the pure metal and leave the dross behind.

But the analysis of your collective body is then only begun. You separate, and disperse upon various theatres of action; and are then called upon, single handed, to battle with the destroyer; each one is then for himself, and his success will correspond to his scientific chivalry. He must be covered with shame or glory, according to his own achievements. Then will be the time, young gentlemen, that fountains of bitter regret will burst forth from the depths of memory, to deluge your hearts and blight your happiness, if you have suffered the precious opportunities of your pupilage to pass away unheeded. Lost property, lost reputation, even lost purity, may be recovered, but let me tell you, lost time and opportunity are gone forever; and every moment which thus flies away takes with it an atom of your prospects, as every emanation from the rose carries off a particle of its fragrance. Even the neglect of a single case in this *clinique*, may exert on your future professional destiny, an effect of which, as young men, you cannot form a conception. The diligent study of a particular form of disease within these walls, may enable you to combat it successfully, when you enter the chambers of affliction, and at once establish you in the confidence of society; while a failure, from ignorance, to do so, might doom you to degradation. I tell you, young gentlemen, that you may be attentive to what is brought before you, *if you will*. Did you not command your attention in making your way to this place? You are not machines, and compelled to move at the bidding of an external force! Do you not feel in yourselves a power, by which you can do, or refrain from doing? Are you not able to turn a *looking* eye upon what is presented, and a *listening* ear to what is said, or withdraw your attention from both, as you may choose? Mere seeing and hearing, let me warn you, will not answer: you must *look* and *listen*.

You may see a patient before us, and hear an examination going on, and still leave the amphitheatre without any adequate knowledge of the case; because you were neither *looking* nor *listening*. Your attention was taking its siesta, or admiring the idle creations of a wayward imagination, when it should have been sitting with its tablets in the eye and ear, recording all that might fall upon both.

To render your clinical opportunities effectively useful, it is indispensable, young gentlemen, that you should be punctual in your attendance on the Hospital. A professor in the halls of the Institute often devotes several minutes of the opening of a lecture to examinations on the last, and if you are late in arriving you only lose the advantage (in the technical slang of the lecture-room) of being *stumped*; an advantage, however, so great, that every student should long after it as his young heart yearns for the highest honors of the school; but no such recapitulations can take place in the clinical hall. We shall begin with the patient before us, and he who is not here in time, will lose all, be it much or little, that transpires before his arrival, and lose it irrecoverably—you must, then, move with celerity to the Hospital. When you are on your way and are about to cross a street, it will frequently happen, that a carriage is approaching to traverse your path, and sometimes even a procession will be at hand. Now these little events will divide you into three Classes. 1st. Some of you observing the approach of the carriage, will determine not to be interrupted, and, therefore, quicken your walk, and finally perhaps run across the street, directly in front of the horses. To these the obstruction will prove a stimulus, and they may reach the hall, even before the time, and secure a front seat. 2d. Others will not quicken their pace, but stop on the corner till the carriage passes by. These may arrive, by the time the first patient is carried out of the *clinique*; 3d, and lastly, there will be others who, even if they see a long procession about to intersect their path, will make no active effort to cross before its arrival, but stand gazing, till the whole has passed; they then move on conversing with each other on what they have seen, and arrive perhaps about the time the last patient is brought in; but observing that the eyes of the Class were directed upon them, they will, the next time a similar interruption happens, conclude not to prosecute the visit, but spend the remainder of the hour in a stroll about the city. Thus they will lose a prescribing day. A lost elementary lecture, by industry in reading, and the aid of a fellow student, may be in some degree made up, but a lost prescribing day, causes a permanent deficiency in the chain of *data*. In the lecture rooms of the Institute, much of your labor is a meditation on previously acquired facts; but our business *here*, is to observe as well as *meditate*; to collect *new data*, to reason upon them at the moment; and each student should take them in, through his own senses, as well as reason upon them with his own mind.

Still further, you ought not to rely upon your memories, nor upon the hospital records, read from time to time in your presence. You should keep your own clinical registers. Seated as you are, there can be no difficulty in doing so, and you will be without excuse if you neglect it. Such registers will be among the most valuable documents you can carry home with you—transcripts from nature, and records in some degree of your own experience; or, at least, of your own observations. When a patient is cured, the minute history of the case will enable you to judge how far the treatment is applicable to *similar* cases of your own; and when he dies, the same history will enable you to detect the errors of treatment which have, perhaps, led to that melancholy event, whereby you will avoid them in your own practice.

On this head, I will only add, for the information of all who may aspire to the honors of the Institute, that our examinations preparatory to the awarding of those honors, will in future embrace a reference to the clinical teachings in this Hall.*

Much of what I have said, is applicable not less to Clinical Surgery than Clinical medicine; but my able coadjutor, who is about to assume the care of the surgical ward of the Hospital, and whose duties, not less than my own, will be discharged in this amphitheatre, will in his private introductory speak for himself.

We come now, young gentlemen, to the second division of our professorship, PATHOLOGICAL ANATOMY. The association of this with CLINICAL MEDICINE, so far from being arbitrary, is altogether natural. Almost every sick person either recovers or dies. Under the former issue, his case is consummated with his discharge from the Hospital; under the latter, by a *post mortem* inspection, which will always be made, when the body is not claimed by friends, and taken away for private sepulture.

Now what is the object of a *post mortem* examination? It is simply to ascertain to what extent the healthy have been transformed into diseased structures; and from these observations, to deduce the seat and the mode of morbid action, which constituted the disease. Of this disease, the symptoms were the external manifestations, during life—the morbid appearances are the internal manifestations, revealed to us after death. We acquire an *a priori* knowledge of its pathology, by the symptoms—an *a posteriori* knowledge, by the derangements of the organization and the organization. Thus, within the walls of a Hospital, not in the halls of our medical schools, are the tests of doctrines brought to bear upon them. Here, and here only, do we see displayed the power and value of the *experimentum crucis*.

The pathological anatomist sits judge over the Clinical practitioner, and renders a decision from which there is no appeal. The scalpel pierces the

dead body, and the clouds of false doctrine and error which over-hung the case are dissipated, as were the sorceries of 'the great deceiver, when he was touched by the spear of Ithuriel. The history of no fatal case is complete until the pen of pathological anatomy inscribes upon its last page those facts, which either condemn or justify him who pronounced upon its diagnosis and conducted its treatment. Thus, the revelations made by this science are of the most sober and momentous character—a chapter of truths connected with the mortal illness of a human being—truths which bear directly on the character and conscience of those to whom the life of that fellow creature was entrusted; and hence the clinical dissecting room has a character of professional seriousness, scarcely less impressive than that moral solemnity which should always be present within its walls. Pathological Anatomy is the *new* tribunal of practical medicine; and well would it be for the interests of truth and humanity, if every culprit could be brought to its bar. But it does not merely applaud, acquit and condemn—it likewise instructs, and the lessons it teaches can be learned from it alone.

By the symptoms we conjecture the mode of morbid action, and the organs most affected; by the effects of our medicines these conjectures are strengthened into opinions; by pathological anatomy they are established as truths, or rejected as errors. Without the *data* supplied by this science, there can be no sound pathology, and without sound pathology, there can be no consistent and successful practice. Thus, although pathological anatomy cannot directly teach us to prescribe, it supplies materials towards a system of theoretical medicine which are indispensable; and the want of which materials, more than any other deficiency, has retarded the creation of such a system. Viewed under this aspect, Morbid Anatomy assumes an importance unequalled by that of any other branch of the profession, except healthy anatomy, which by common consent is the *elementum sine qua non* of medical science; for it not only constitutes the lowest stratum of the basis, but likewise blends itself with all the materials of which the superstructure is composed.

As the fundamental branch, healthy Anatomy must be your first study; but it is not necessary that your knowledge of it should be *very* great, before you commence the study of morbid anatomy; for you will find that every *post mortem* inspection, will enlarge your acquaintance with the normal state of the organs, although its object is to trace out the abnormal. You will realize even more than this. The memory of mere natural structure fades away more rapidly than any other memory of the medical mind. Physiology, to some extent, contributes to the permanence of our anatomical knowledge, for when function and its laws are associated with organization, the anatomical descriptions abide with us much longer; but, it is not till we see the organs in desolation, and compare their ruins with the fair forms and delicate textures, which they displayed in the days of their

prosperity, that the latter becomes indelibly impressed. This contrast is, indeed, the mordant which fixes both in the mind, and enables it to send forth deep and brilliant dyes of elegant scholarship.

Every pathological dissection is, then, a precious study of general and special anatomy, and the youngest member of the class, who seeks only to advance himself in the knowledge of structure, not less than the oldest who labors on the web of pathology, should give a willing and undivided attention to all the *post mortem* examinations which may be performed within these walls.

Nor can you study this science successfully in books alone young gentlemen; not even in that of my learned colleague, although the best, as I firmly believe, *for students of medicine*, that was ever published in any country. Paradoxical as you may esteem it, I affirm that it is even easier to study healthy, than morbid anatomy, in books; for description can make the former more intelligible than the latter. To be understood, abnormal and morbid structure must be seen. Who, that has not seen a pathological structure, till he meets with it in one of his own dead patients, is prepared to report it? And who acquires a knowledge of morbid appearances, out of a hospital? Can any one pretend, that in this or any other country, such knowledge can be acquired in private practice? It cannot; and yet, it is greatly needed *in private practice*. Not merely required by the demands which medical science makes on all its votaries, to contribute new means for its advancement—demands which every high-minded young man prepares himself to meet—but society itself will make special calls upon you—calls that will place you under the heaviest responsibility.

In the first place, notwithstanding the popular prejudice which so deplorably limits the cultivation of morbid anatomy, in private practice, there will often arise a panic in the public mind, under the onset of a new and strange epidemic, that will lead to a common consent and an expressed wish, that you should make *post mortem* inspections, for the purpose of devising a more effective plan of treatment. Secondly: Every now and then you will be called upon to inspect the body of some favorite child, or some distinguished man, who has died of an uncommon disease; or of one of the members of a family in which a dangerous hereditary tendency is supposed to lurk. Finally, you will be frequently called upon by coroners and other legal officers, to examine the bodies of persons found dead under suspicious circumstances, as from diseases supposed to have been induced by poison, or violence, and concerning which you will be required to testify in court.

Look at the responsible position in which these calls will place you. In the first case, if you incorrectly observe or interpret the morbid appearances, and frame a method of treatment on observations thus inaccurately made, the lives of thousands may be sacrificed. In the second place, if

you make ignorant, or even awkward reports, on the lesions of structure found in individuals whose rank in families or society leads to the publication, by conversation or otherwise, of what you say, it will inevitably injure your professional standing. In the third place, should you make an erroneous report, in a case of medical jurisprudence, you may bring disgrace and punishment, even death itself, upon an innocent person—the bare anticipation of which should fill every honorable and conscientious mind with dread; while the realization of such a mistake, would rend your hearts with emotions of grief, reproach and horror.

Do not flatter yourselves, that because the prejudices of society oppose your practising *post mortem* examinations, it will, therefore, tolerate your ignorance of morbid appearances; for no such consistency exists. Society may withhold the straw, but will still require the brick. It assumes that you have the requisite knowledge, all its opposition notwithstanding; and if you have not, you must expect its condemnation.

Add these considerations, young gentlemen, to that which I presented as the greatest—the indispensable necessity of pathological anatomy to the formation of systems of pathological science, and then recede if you can from the conclusion, that the branch which I am now commending to your notice is of surpassing importance.

You may say, however, that you know many *popular* physicians who are ignorant of it, which I grant; but do you know *any scientific* physician, in whose mind there exists so extended a blank? I hope, young gentlemen, you will all be *popular*—but I hope still more ardently, that you will all be *scientific*. You should recoil from the thought of popularity without skill. Science, humanity, and courteousness, are the three great elements of sound and desirable popularity, but the greatest of the three is science.

Clinical Medicine and Pathological Anatomy are sciences of observation. The first requisite for accurate observation is active attention, on which I have already sufficiently dwelt.

The second is an unbiased mind. In coming to the bedside or to the dissecting table, you must leave your prepossessions and prejudices behind. If you do not, you are liable to see things under a modified aspect. This is particularly the case whenever we are engaged in minute inspections. A previous expectation, or even a wish, may so engraft itself upon our faculties of observation as to mystify them. I will give you a familiar illustration. When I came to this city a year ago, a drought prevailed every where, except in the Medical Institute, and no water flowed along the streets, which as you know are nearly level. As it is natural that the water falling upon or discharged into them, should flow *towards* the river, and especially as I had lived in a city where such was the case, I presumed that the water from Chesnut street flowed off to the north; and as I passed and repassed between the Institute and the Hospital, I *saw most satisfactorily*, that the cross streets declined from that scientific avenue to

the river. But soon afterwards there fell a copious rain, and to my surprise I remarked the water flowing to the south, across Chesnut street from Walnut; when I immediately *satisfied myself*, that the streets dipped in *that* direction.

In the third place, every case and every dissection will offer to your observation many things in common, while each will present something peculiar. This classification, if such it may be called, should be borne in mind, and while you *observe* the *former*, you must *scrutinize* the *latter*. The symptoms which are diagnostic of the case, and the lesions of structure which rendered it fatal, should have in your minds a special assignment; as, in the mind of my friend, the professor of Materia Medica, and other distinguished botanists, a few of the characters of each species of plants have a special lodgment, and serve to distinguish it from all others, with many of which it may have numerous characters in common.

In the fourth place, although I have said that Clinical Medicine and Pathological Anatomy are matters of observation, I must add, that medicine, in the full acception of the term, is a science of reflection not less than of observation; and, that while you should engage in the latter without any special or favourite theory, which through thick and thin you are determined to support, it will be your duty not merely to collect facts, but to refer them to principles which they are fitted to sustain. In this way you not only secure them, but make them immediately useful. They are the aliment of the mind; but they can impart no nourishment till they are distributed and deposited. If merely lodged in your intellectual stomachs, they will no more promote the growth of your mental faculties, than food would nourish your organs if it remained in your corporeal stomachs, instead of taking the course of the circulation. And, as the digestive organs when engorged cannot react on the load, and by decomposing prepare it for distribution, so if the receiving faculties of the mind collect without handing over to the distributing, they will soon become oppressed, and the whole mental economy be disturbed.

Let us now pass to other views. The clinical division of my chair does not embrace Surgery, but the anatomical division is as closely allied to that science as to physic; and contemplated in its connexion with that very important practical branch of the profession, it acquires a new interest. No one can be acquainted either with the institutes or practice of Surgery without a knowledge of pathological anatomy: no one can trace lines of distinction between these two branches, so much is common to both. It is not the function of the pathological anatomist to dress a wound or splint a fractured limb; to tie an aneurismal artery; to remove a cataract, or open the iris; to extract the sequestrum of a necrosed bone, or extirpate a tumour; but it is the function of the pathological anatomist to note the lesions of structure which render these and other operations necessary. Thus morbid anatomy is connected on the one

hand with the diseased actions, which fix the attention of the physician, and on the other, with the diseased structures which demand the attention of the surgeon; and while you are employed in *its* study, you are preparing yourselves for the duties of both of these.

Further, our science lends a helping hand to the chair of obstetrics. What are the various deformities of the pelvis, and the organic derangements of the ovaries and cervix uteri, but cases in pathological anatomy? And are not the congenital defects of the fœtus—the imperforate sphincters, the club-feet—the cleft lip and palate—the capsular cataracts and the spina bifidas, equally the objects of that science?

Again. Morbid anatomy claims an affinity with *Materia Medica*. It detects those permanent derangements in the structure of organs, as the heart, the lungs, and the bowels, which not only render medicines unavailing, but admonish the practitioner, to administer those of a debilitating character, with a sparing hand, in as much as lost strength, with visceral derangement, is with difficulty recovered.

Once more. The teacher of the Institutes cannot dispense with the aid of Pathological anatomy. The facts which it supplies are indispensable to the general views in the philosophy of medicine, which it is his duty to put forth, while many of the functions have been illustrated, chiefly by noting the lesion which they suffer from lesion of the organs.

Lastly. It contributes to Animal Chemistry a variety of new products for analysis, such as altered secretions, cretaceous deposits, biliary concretions, urinary calculi, and the heterologous tumors, thus enriching that science with new conquests, and, in turn, borrowing from it the means of advancing its own researches.

Thus, there is not a division of the science of medicine, to which pathological anatomy is not allied—not one to which it does not lend a helping hand, though in very different degrees—scarcely one which does not, in turn, contribute to its advancement.

Such a branch of science, young gentlemen, must be worthy of your profoundest attention. You should not regard its study as optional. A proper estimate of its rank and value will leave you no such option; but impose its study as a bounden duty. Such is now the judgment passed upon it by the most enlightened members of the profession, both in the old and new world. What is it so much as pathological anatomy, that draws students from all parts of Europe and the United States, to Paris? What but this gives more than half their value to hospitals, as auxiliaries of medical schools? And how great are the benefits which these public charities confer on students of medicine and surgery! What a Senate house is to the ambitious young statesmen, the Hospital is to the young physician and the young surgeon. It is as the herbarium to the student of botany—the hall of justice to the student of law—the observatory to the youthful astronomer.

I am happy to tell you, gentlemen, that the Faculty of the Institute, have been and still are, deeply impressed with these great truths; and are determined to render the public charity, near which we are now assembled, subservient in the highest possible degree to the interests of the school. In this object, the Mayor and City Council, and the Managers of the Institute, concur and co-operate with the Faculty. Under an arrangement between the first and last, the professors have erected the amphitheatre in which we are now assembled, and this day solemnly dedicate to the study of Clinical Medicine, Pathological Anatomy, and Operative Surgery. They have thus opened a way for the advantages of the Hospital to flow out upon you in a more copious current than could otherwise have issued from that fountain. It is not my intention to speak invidiously; but justice to ourselves requires me to say, that the arrangements which we have now consummated do not exist in most of the schools of the U. States which are connected with Hospitals, while many have no Hospital at all; and that although some of these institutions contain more patients, not one, of which I have any knowledge, has adopted a more excellent method of rendering its sick and its dead available to the improvement of the pupils by whom it may be visited.

The erection and opening of this Hall may, indeed, without ostentation, be regarded as an era in the history of medical instruction in the West. It completes the circle of opportunities, and prepares the way for making those opportunities as precious and productive to the student, as those afforded in any other city of the Union. Henceforth, there will exist no difference between your young *alma mater*, and the oldest schools of the nation, but what is found in the men who administer here, compared with those of the more ancient seminaries. Of my learned colleagues I need say nothing, as so many of you have already attended on their teachings. I am bound, however, to declare, that but for the activity and enterprise of our distinguished professor of the Institutes, this amphitheatre might not, by this time, have had an existence. I regret that an abler man than myself is not to be the chief minister at its altar. But institutions are perennial, while men decay, and are succeeded by others. *I am, at most*, but a pioneer, and at the longest, must soon give place to some one more worthy of the high and respectable station which I now occupy. I hope, young gentlemen, that you enter heartily with me into these views of the future. It is noble to combine the future with the present, and live and labour for both. Benevolence unites them into one. Ambition overlooks neither, and aims at both. Thus it is, that high conceptions of patriotic duty are formed, and effective efforts generated. Comprehensive views beget exalted aspirations, and these, in turn, prompt to great exertion. In minds thus tempered, the selfish and social become blended; and the interests which are personal, unite themselves with those which are public.

It is glorious to live *with* the age to which we belong, and *for* the ages that are to follow—to identify ourselves with communities of fellow-travellers,

labouring to do good—who thirst after knowledge—who are ascending to fame in generous emulation—or, in the fulness of time, descending to the grave in christian companionship.

But, perhaps, you cannot see in the future all that will be unfolded to you by a more ample experience. As we advance in life the prospect before us widens, and many objects become visible, which had been previously unobserved. Thus, when the traveller descends our fairest of rivers, in its state of depression, he sees little else than the margin of its banks, and the tops of the hills which lie beyond; but when he makes successive voyages, as the spring floods gradually rise, he sees from higher points of observation many additional objects; till at length, when the swollen tide has raised him to its greatest elevation, he beholds extended plains on either side, which smile in cultivated beauty, and excite surprise and admiration.

It is delightful to contemplate the full and final establishment of an Institution of science and humanity, on such a spot, and under such influences, as must of necessity render it prosperous and permanent. Like all young seminaries, ours may experience those little reverses which develope energy and impart firmness of character; but onward and upward *will* be its career. Other schools may flourish, and new ones start into existence—for the mighty West is prolific; but the Institute must continue to advance; for it occupies itself on the means of its own advancement, and wastes not its energies in retarding others. When years have rolled away, many of *you* will return: some of *us* will then be in the grave; but you will find your *alma mater* still prosperous. Another cycle will be completed, and a *few* of you, whitened with the snows of many winters and bowed down by toil for the welfare of society, will revisit her; but those from whom you are now to take lessons, will be hushed in death, and new—I trust more eloquent—voices will echo through her halls. Your aged hearts will then mournfully ask, where are they whose accents fell upon the ear, in the joyous days of our youth? But your moments of anguish will be short, for a *throng* of happy pupils will surround and greet, and honor you as elder brethren; and your pulses will then beat high at the noble and cheering sight of a great medical University—ample in its resources, profound in its teachings, and exalted in fame—from which the outpourings of science and humanity will flow in copious streams, among the untold millions of your native land.

